

Scientific Root Words and Prefixes

Memorize the first two columns only. The examples will not be on the quiz.

Root Word or Prefix	Definition	Example
1. a-	not, without, lacking	abiotic
2. archaeo-	primitive, ancient	archaebacteria
3. bio-	life, living	biotic
4. caud-	tail	caudal
5. di-	two, double	dichotomous key
6. ecto-	outside of	ectotherm
7. endo-	in, into, within	endotherm
8. eu-	true	eukaryote
9. geo-	land, earth	geosphere
10. -kary-	cell nucleus	eukaryote
11. lith-	stone	lithosphere
12. mes-	middle	mesosphere
13. multi-	many	multicellular
14. photo-	light	photosynthesis
15. pro-	before	prokaryote
16. -spher-	ball, round	mesosphere
17. spir-	breathe	respiration
18. sub-	under, below	subduction
19. therm-	heat	thermal
20. uni-	one	unicellular